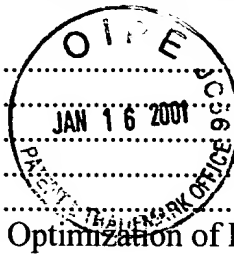


#3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.09/607,786
Filing Date6/30/00
Inventorship Gao et al.
Applicant Microsoft Corporation
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-441US
Title: A System and Method for Joint Optimization of Language Model
Performance and Size



DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "A System and Method for Joint Optimization of Language Model Performance and Size," referenced above.

I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I hereby claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of United States Provisional Application 60/163,851, filed November 5, 1999.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATIONS: no applications for foreign patents or inventor's certificates have been filed prior to the date of execution of this declaration.

Power of Attorney

I appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all future business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected with this application: Lewis C. Lee, Reg. No. 34,656; Daniel L. Hayes, Reg. No. 34,618; Allan T. Sponseller, Reg. 38,318; Steven R. Sponseller, Reg. No. 39,384; James R. Banowsky, Reg. No. 37,773; Lance R. Sadler, Reg. No. 38,605; Michael A. Proksch, Reg. No. 43,021; Thomas A. Jolly, Reg. No. 39,241; David A. Morasch, Reg. No. 42,905; Kasey C. Christie, Reg. No. 40,559; Nathan R. Rieth, Reg. No. 44,302; Brian G. Hart, Reg. No. 44,421; Katie E. Sako, Reg. No. 32,628 and Daniel D. Crouse, Reg. No. 32,022.

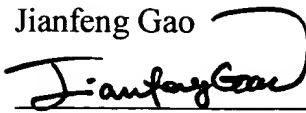
Send correspondence to: LEE & HAYES, PLLC, 421 W. Riverside Avenue, Suite 500, Spokane, Washington, 99201. Direct telephone calls to: Michael A. Proksch (509) 324-9256.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued therefrom.

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Inventor's Signature



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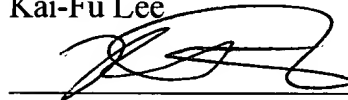
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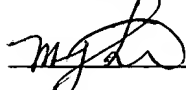
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